

THIRD SUNDAY OF
LENT



Our Lady of Mount Carmel—One Passaic Street, Ridgewood, NJ 07450 ~ March 8, 2026

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www.olmcridgewood.com

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Monday-Friday—9AM-8PM | Saturday-Sunday—9AM-2PM

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Dear Friends,

A short version of my homily for Commitment Weekend for the **Annual Appeal**

You should have received in the mail the promotional brochure for the Annual Appeal, the three part explanation of the ministries and programs the Appeal helps to fund. If you did not, there are extra copies of it in the pews this weekend. I would ask you to look at it with **fresh eyes**.

-Have you been in the hospital lately? Or someone you love—a spouse, parents or grandparents, a child, siblings? No matter what hospital, Valley or Hackensack or Holy Name or Englewood. Were you or your loved one visited by someone from the Chaplain's Office? If yes, that was supported by funds from the Appeal.

-Is someone you love—a child, grandchild, niece, nephew preparing for Confirmation or was recently (within the last couple of years) confirmed and attended their confirmation retreat at the Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center in Kearny, or maybe perhaps they're one of the 75 teenagers from Mount Carmel on retreat right now at that Center? That Center is supported by funds from the Annual Appeal.

-Is someone you love engaged and preparing for marriage, a son or daughter, a grandchild? And they're going through marriage prep right now—Pre-Cana, FOCCUS, God's Plan? All that is supported through funds from the Appeal.

-Does someone you love attend a local college in the four counties of the Archdiocese, whether Catholic, like Seton Hall, or non-sectarian like Montclair State or Ramapo? The Campus Ministry at that institution is supported by funds from the Appeal.

So what am I asking you to do? To look at all those abstract categories, Proclaiming the Gospel, Passing on the Faith, etc. with **fresh eyes**, putting a name and a face of someone you know and love in those places, Youth and Young Adult Ministry (the Retreat Center), Hospital Chaplaincy (Valley or Hackensack). Then you may discover that the Appeal touches your life a lot closer than you thought.

But after you've done that you may still say to me, Father, I looked and I don't think I know anyone who is personally touched by the Appeal. Then, I would ask you, do you remember January? The 0 and 3 and 4 degree days? There were people, not far from here, who were homeless in that weather and turned to Catholic Charities (Caring for the Poor and Vulnerable) literally to save their lives. Newark Catholic Charities runs the largest shelter system of any non-governmental entity in the state. And we manage Newark's shelter and search for the homeless in the terminals of Newark airport and the stations of the PATH system, inviting them into those shelters.

So, what am I asking you to do? To look again at the

brochure with **fresh eyes**, and to put a name and a face of people you know who have benefitted from programs, ministries supported by the funds from the Appeal and to reflect on all the lives touched by the Appeal, including the homeless. Then I would ask you to pray. Pray for God's call and direction. The Lord is asking you, what can you do to help ensure that these ministries, programs and services are there a year from now, two years from now, five years from now. Then answer God's call and question and that answer is between you and the Lord.

If you didn't get the brochure and the commitment envelope in the mail, you can find them in the pews in the church this weekend.

Grace and Peace,
Fr. Ron

PS. Speaking of Catholic Charities, as in the past few years, as a member of the Board of Trustees, I am asked to sell chances for the annual raffle. Only 500 chances will be sold @ \$50 each for the 50/50 raffle. If anyone is in a generous mood (and feels lucky), please contact me via email at the rectory. Thank you in advance.

STEWARDSHIP

"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again." Jesus reminds us that material things, even something as basic as water, can never satisfy us for long. When we build our lives around material possessions we will always want more. True satisfaction only comes when we follow Jesus and when we participate in the building of His Kingdom. The Christian Steward keeps this perspective to offer gifts of **Time, Talent and Treasure** to build that kingdom.

The parish Stewardship of Treasure last week was \$14,064. The Stewardship of Treasure for the 4 Sundays of February was \$112,337. It was received as follows:

Electronic Giving (We Share/Venmo)	\$53,820
In Pew/Mailed to the Rectory	\$58,517

God bless all who are generous in support of the work of the Kingdom.



A recurring online gift
To Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
is the best way to sustain
the mission of this parish
all year long...



Look for the **WeShare** link on our website homepage,
Scan this QR Code, or call 877.316.0260



You can support OLMC via Venmo!

Find us under "Charities" @olmcridgewoodnj
or scan the QR code here.

The **Order of Christian Initiation of Adults** is the faith journey that prepares an inquirer for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through the sacraments celebrated in the Catholic Church during Easter.



The Elect are the non-baptized adults who were liturgically enrolled in the **Rite of Election** to continue their journey to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist on the Easter Vigil. At Our Lady of Mount Carmel, this rite was celebrated on February 28th at the 8:30AM Mass. The next OCIA Rites are the **Scrutinies**.

The **Scrutinies** are celebrated on the **Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent**. These rites are intended to enlighten the Elect on the destructive effects of sin and to reflect on developing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The scriptural readings are from the liturgical Year A.

The **First Scrutiny** is on the **Gospel of John** regarding the **Samaritan Woman at the Well** and her encounter with Jesus. It is to enlighten the Elect and everyone that **Christ is the Living Water**. Msgr. Ron celebrates the First Scrutiny today, March 8th, at the 11:00AM Mass. The two Elect, *Kim Derkacs* and *Jennifer Phan*, are invited to the sanctuary to listen to the First Scrutiny prayers and receive the blessings. Deacon Bob Liwanag assists at this Mass.

The Second Scrutiny will be next Sunday, March 12, 2026. The parish community is invited to pray for the Easter 2026 group of elect and candidates as they journey to receive their sacraments.

Jesus & Me Story Time

This Coming Saturday

March 14, 2026—10:30AM

Parish Center Meeting Room

Bring your child, grandchild or Godchild to a fun, faith filled, story time for young children ages 2-1/2 to 5.

To register contact Adriana DeCandia
thedomesticchurch61@gmail.com
\$10 suggested donation per family

Lent Morning Prayer ~ All are Welcome!

Join us for Morning Prayer, Monday-Friday—6:00AM
Lower Level of the School Bldg.

Enter through the rear door.

ANNUAL APPEAL—2026

Donate online: See the link on the parish website.

Make sure to select Our Lady of Mt. Carmel—Ridgewood
from the drop-down menu

Checks (payable: 2026 Annual Appeal) may also be placed in the collection basket, in the boxes at the doors of the church, or mailed/dropped off at the rectory.



All are Welcome!
Pray the Stations of the Cross
Each Friday in Lent
Immediately Following
The 12:00 Noon Mass

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Religious Education



Lenten Confessions—Grades 2-8—Church
Includes WFG, Summer Program & Jr. High

Monday, March 9;

Wednesday, March 11; or Monday, March 16

All should attend. Check the link sent by your Religious Education program to sign up for a time slot.

Stations of the Cross in the Church
Grades 1-6—WFG & Summer Program

Thursday, March 19—4:00PM

Presented by Academy of Our Lady 8th Graders

Monday, March 23—7:00PM

Reflection & Song Led by OLMC's Contemporary Choir

Rescheduled Empowering God's Children

Sun., April 12 | 12NN | Parish Center

Mon., April 13 | 5PM-6PM or 7PM-8PM | Parish Center

Required for all families in our WFG program. Check the link sent by Religious Ed to sign up for one of the dates.

Save the Date

Rescheduled Divine Mercy Session

Presented by the Apostolic Sisters of St. John

Thursday, April 16 | 7:00PM-8:00PM | Parish Center

For more information contact Religious Education
Cathy Hunt, chunt@olmcridgewood.com
Pat McGarvie, pmcgarvie@olmcridgewood.com
Religious Ed office at 201.444.0211

FR. ENGLISH PANTRY—FROZEN PAN MINISTRY

PANS/RECIPES AVAILABLE AT ALL MASSES

NEXT WEEKEND—MARCH 14 & 15

FROZEN CASSEROLE DROP OFF

SATURDAY, MARCH 21ST

(AT OUR MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE—9AM-12NN)

Please help us provide frozen casseroles to the Fr. English Food Pantry this month. Easy recipe options are provided with pans and lids. Casseroles must be **FROZEN**. Your generous response will make it possible for a family to sit around the dinner table and enjoy a prepared meal.

Questions? Call/Text Barbara—201.615.9624

Next Youth Ministry Monthly Food Drive
Saturday, March 21, 2026—9AM-12NN

These Food Drives support: Fr. English Food Pantry, Social Services Association, Ridgecrest Senior Living and Healing Meals (fresh produce/food items). Your generosity is greatly appreciated by those served.

Volunteer drivers needed at 10AM & 12NN
to transport the food to the pantries.

Contact Glen McCall gmccall@olmcridgewood.com

Knights of Columbus Council 1736

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION
MASS & RECEPTION

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026—8:30AM



Please join us at the 8:30AM Mass Tuesday, March 17th, in the Church. The Knights invite everyone to join them for a continental breakfast featuring Irish Soda Bread, immediately following the Mass in the Parish Center.

Loyola  **Jesuit Center**

May 1-3, 2026—Men's & Women's Retreat
May 8-10, 2026 & May 29-31, 2026—(Men's Retreats)
Silent Weekend Retreats

Weekend retreats at Loyola are conducted in an atmosphere of practical, prayerful quiet, if not absolute silence, and include Scriptural and thematic meditations, periods of prayer and personal reflection, pastoral consultations or Spiritual Direction, Reconciliation, and often a Healing Mass. Each retreat weekend's theme is designed to help you encounter God's presence. Join us for any one of these three silent weekend retreats. Please register online at Loyola.org, call 973.539.0740, or scan this QR code.



Questions? Contact Dcn. Bob Liwanag or Bob Reilly
bob.liwanag@olmcridgewood.com, 201.663.3644
rpreilly1@hotmail.com, 917.476.2306

The Community Thrift Shop

85 Godwin Avenue (lower level, rear) Midland Park.

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(Seasonal Items Only Accepted)

Shopping Hours (Cash Only)
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday—10AM-4PM

Request your donation(s) benefit
OLMC MOMs—#97.

Clean & Wearable Clothing; Household Items;
Small Furniture; Bric-a-Brac; Books;
Working Electronics

Questions?
Call 201.652.7661 during open hours only.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Anthony Bollhofer, Aedan Cannon, Nick Haddad,
Durkin McCarthy, John Morano, James Nardelli,
Michael Ortolani, Robert Smith, Thomas Tesoriero



**PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
(PEA)**

**CHAPEL IS OPEN 24/7
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

All are warmly invited to Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration.

A PRAYER FOR PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lord Jesus, light of the world, You shine quietly from the Eucharist, dispelling the shadows within me.

Draw my heart away from noise, from pride,
from distractions, and anchor it in You alone.

Teach me to listen as Your first disciples did,
to follow You not in haste, but in faithful love.

Unite Your church in Your presence, heal what is divided,
and make us one in You.

Stay with us, Lord, as we stay with You.

Amen

Stop by the chapel at anytime. The chapel is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Better yet, sign up for one holy hour once a week, every week, to glorify God and to help keep the door open to anyone seeking God, seeking peace.

Come spend an hour with Jesus. The chapel is open 24/7.

SCHEDULED ADORERS NEEDED

Sundays: 2-3AM; Wednesdays: 2-3AM, 9-10PM;
Fridays: 4-5AM, 2-3PM; Saturdays: 5-6PM

For more information

Contact Cynthia—551.574.1063, cynthiabtorres@yahoo.com



**IHA Presents...
High School Musical
March 27-29, 2026**

Immaculate Heart Academy is proud to present Disney Channel's smash hit movie *High School Musical* on the weekend of March 27th-29th.

**Friday, March 27—7:00PM
Saturday, March 28—2:00PM & 7:00PM
Sunday, March 29—2:00PM**

Student actors performing in this entertaining, family-friendly musical come from many area high schools, including IHA, St. Joseph Regional High School, Bergen Catholic, Seton Hall Prep, and Saddle River Day School.

Tickets are \$15/each and can be purchased at www.performingartsattheheart.com. All performances will take place in IHA's Performing Arts Center, 500 Van Emburgh Ave., Township of Washington, NJ 07676.

Contact AnneMarie Vaughn
Director of Communications & Marketing
for any questions or more information:
avaughn@ihanj.com, 201.445.6800, x134

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sun. Mar. 8	9:00AM ISP Women's Team (MR) 1:30PM OCIA (MR) 1:30PM Bell Choir Practice (PCB) 4:00PM Spanish Apostolate (PC) 5:00PM Jr. High 8C (MR) 7:30PM Jr. High D (MR)
Mon. Mar. 9	10:00PM MOMs Book Club (MR) 4:00PM WFG, Summer Program, Jr. High Confessions (Church) 5:30PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 6:00PM SCC Core Team (SMR) 7:30PM WFG, Jr. High Confessions (Church) 7:30PM Contemporary Choir (Church)
Tues. Mar. 10	3:45PM Jr. High Grade 7 Makeup (PC) 4:00PM Religious Ed Grades 1-6 (Gym) 5:00PM Choir Rehearsal (Church) 5:00PM Shrake Baptism Prep (REC!) 5:30PM CYO Basketball (GYM) 7:30PM Journey Parent Prayer Service (Chap) 8:00PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)
Wed. Mar. 11	4:00PM WFG, Summer Program, Jr. High Confessions (Church) 5:30PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:00PM WCST Circle of Prayer (MR) 7:00PM Opus Dei (Chapel, PCA) 7:00PM WFG Confessions (Church) 8:00PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)
Thurs. Mar. 12	10:30AM Sunday Liturgy Scripture Study (SMR) 5:30PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:30PM Knights Social (K of C Hall) 8:00PM Marriage Enrichment/Prep (NCW)
Fri. Mar.. 13	10:00AM WCST Scripture Study (SMR) 5:30PM CYO Basketball (Gym)
Sat. Mar. 14	9:00AM CYO Basketball (Gym) 9:00AM Men's Basketball (Gym) 10:30AM Jesus & Me Story Time (MR) 6:30PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE ILL MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH

Dale Adamo, Luis Badillo, Frederick Bruno, Mike Bucci, Charles Buckley, Kimberly Parsons Daub, Nick DiDonato, Maura Gillen Eidschun, Marie Evans, Kay & Bill Forster, Julianna Grace Giles, Frank Gillen, Susan Hart-White, Joseph Hyon, Marc Johnson, Tom Keleher, Claudia LaFrance, Susan Lois, Campbell McArthur, Christine O'Brien, David Oswald, Margaret Peak, Linda Reo, Cathy Ricciuto, Art Rippas, Francis Tedaro Ristor, Michael Runz, Nancy Steen, Larry Switaj, Nickolas John Tedaro, Carmen Vega-Torres, Christina Volpe, Rochelle West, Rosemary Wright, Walter John Zelop, Jr.

Parishioners may call the Rectory with the name of a family member who is sick to have them included in our prayers.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



Monday, Mar. 9 *Saint Frances of Rome, Religious*

- + **6:30AM Jim Roth**
req Vito & Nancy Nardelli
- + **8:30AM Stefano Bussanich, Sr.**
req Stefano & Domenica Bussanich
- + **12:00NN Richie Kaiser, Jr.**
req Ed & Monica McCabe

Tuesday, Mar. 10

- + **6:30AM Kevin Moran**
req Dennis DePrimo
- 8:30AM Special Intention**
of Jason Scott Santlofer
req Mitch & Judy Santlofer
- + **12:00NN Pat Neary**
req Nancy Nardelli

Wednesday, Mar 11

- + **6:30AM Norm Delaney—10th Anniversary**
req The Delaney Family
- + **8:30AM Jim Roth**
req Tom & Louise Lewis
- + **12:00NN Sarah O'Connell**
req Julie & Rob McGaffin

Thursday, Mar. 12

- + **6:30AM Angela Pucciareli**
req Domenick & Crissy Morin
- + **8:30AM Janina Dziedzic**
req Susan & Andrew Varady
- + **12:00NN Robert Thomas Terhune**
req The Schroen Family

Friday, Mar. 13

- + **6:30AM Adele Rivas**
req The Bolduc Family
- + **8:30AM Marie J. McCormack**
req The McCormack Family
- + **12:00NN Deceased Members**
of the Frank Family
req Carole Frank

Saturday, Mar. 14

- + **8:30AM Mary Crawford**
req Her Family
- + **5:30PM Elizabeth Lodewick**
req The Lodewick Family

Sunday, Mar. 15 *Fourth Sunday of Lent*

- + **8:00AM Sr. Genevieve Lanahan**
req Brian & Anne O'Reilly
- + **9:30AM Danny McGinley**
req His Family
- + **11:00AM Rita Indovino**
req Connie Hambos & Family
- 12:30PM For the People of the Parish**
- 3:00PM Reinaldo & Socorro Giraldo**
44th Wedding Anniversary
req The Giraldo Family
- + **6:30PM Patricia Engel**
req The Engel Family

TODAY'S READINGS

1. Exodus 17:3-7

Twice before, in the three months since being freed from slavery, the Israelite community grumbles against their Liberator and both times their grumbling brings an answer. Even this does not convince them that their God is trustworthy. Exhibiting their spiritual weakness, they complain again, this time about their thirst. Even Moses complains, fearing harm from the people. Ever-patient, God reassures Moses He is present and He will provide.

2. Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Those who are justified by faith have peace with God because they depend totally on the saving work of Jesus. This faith, then, leads to hope, the conviction that God will never abandon them in this life or the next. Faith and hope, together, enable the believer to be open to the love of God the Father, poured into their hearts by the Holy Spirit. That love has been demonstrated already by Christ who died for us even though our sins prove us undeserving.

3. John 4:5-42

Switching from Matthew to John, the Church offers deep reflections on the identity of Jesus in the next three weeks of Lent. In today's excerpt, that identity is manifest in the conversation between Jesus and the woman. Social taboos aside, Jesus invites her into a relationship that will transcend all former approaches to God, a God Who knows her intimately, and invites her, with all her sinfulness, to drink of the waters of eternal life. The woman goes away a changed person. Thus transformed, she cannot help but share the news with her compatriots who come to seek Jesus themselves. The woman, in John, becomes a model for who and what a disciple is.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK

1. Have you ever felt Christ calling you to new life?
2. Questioning/misunderstanding. This is how the Samaritan woman came to discover Who Jesus really is. Have you experienced this faith-dance in your own life?
3. Coming to faith, she testified to her neighbors about Jesus. Do you ever witness to Jesus in your life?

NEXT WEEK'S PRESIDERS

Sat. 3/14	5:30PM	Fr. John Carlos
Sun. 3/15	8:00AM	Fr. Ron
	9:30AM	Fr. Ron
	11:00AM	Fr. Jakov
	12:30PM	Fr. Jakov
	3:00PM	Fr. John Carlos
	6:30PM	Fr. John Carlos

Late changes appear on the website
after 12NN the Saturday of that weekend.



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